

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

COME-00 DOTE-00 EB-07 FMC-01 CG-00 OFA-01 DLOS-03

IO-10 EUR-12 /085 W

----- 085192

R 171040Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7677

INFO AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMCONSUL ZANZIBAR

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE DAR ES SALAAM 0790

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, EWWT, TZ, MI

SUBJECT: SHIPS ON LAKE NYASA (MALAWI) -- WHEN WILL
THE FLEET ARRIVE?

REF: BLANTYRE 0318 (NOTAL); DAR ES SALAAM A-133 (7/19/74)(NOTAL);
DAR ES SALAAM A-209 (12/2/74) (NOTAL).

1. AS FOOTNOTE TO REFTTEL, REGARDING GOM CONCERN OVER TANZANIAN
PLANS TO OPEN SHIPPING SERVICE ON LAKE NYASA (MALAWI), ADDRESSEES
MAY FIND FOLLOWING OF INTEREST:

2. FOR PAST MONTH, PORT DAR ES SALAAM HAS HOSTED HIGHLY VISIBLE
PATROL BOAT PERCHED ON EAST AFRICAN RAILWAYS (EAR) FLATCAR.
BOAT IS CIRCA 47 FEET IN LENGTH, WEAPONRY CAREFULLY COVERED
WITH TARPULINS, CARRIES THE NUMBER (IN 2-FOOT HIGH FIGURES)
"PB-101" AND HAS CHALKED ON ONE PROPELLER INSCRIPTION "POLICE -
MARINE". BOAT HAS BEEN SITTING THERE FOR ABOUT ONE MONTH

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AND IS GUARDED BY POLICE.

3. RUMOR AMONG SHIPPING LINE SOURCES IS THAT THE PATROL BOAT WAS MISTAKENLY LOADED ON EAR RAILROAD CAR AS PORT MANAGEMENT THOUGHT IT WAS DESTINED FOR KIGOMA (LAKE TANGANYIKA) OR MWANZA (LAKE VICTORIA). LATER INSTRUCTIONS CAME THROUGH THAT IT IS TO BE RAILED TO MBEYA AND THEN MOVED OVERLAND TO LAKE NYASA. PROBLEM NOW, ACCORDING TO SHIPPING PEOPLE, IS THAT TANGOV CANNOT PUZZLE OUT HOW TO TRANSFER VESSEL FROM EAR FLATCAR TO TAZARA FLATCAR.

4. FINALLY, RE REFTTEL, IT MAY BE SOME TIME BEFORE GOM WILL SEE TANZANIAN SHIPPING SERVICE ON LAKE NYASA. ONE OF THREE SHIPS DESTINED FOR THAT SERVICE (SEE REPAIRS) WAS LAST VIEWED MOVING OVERLAND ON FLATBED TO MBEYA. WE HAVE HEARD STORIES THAT TANGOV IS EXPERIENCING DIFFICULTIES IN FINDING A TRACTOR STRONG ENOUGH TO PULL IT UP HILLS TO MBEYA AND DOWN TO LAKE. MEANWHILE, ITS SISTER SHIP, A CIRCA 40-FOOT PASSENGER VESSEL, SITS ON BLOCKS IN PORT AREA AWAITING RETURN OF FLATBED AFTER OTHER SHIP HAS BEEN LAUNCHED IN LAKE. IN A FAR CORNER OF PORT AREA SITS THE LARGEST OF THE THREE VESSELS, FREIGHTER "SONGEA", HIGH AND DRY ON BLOCKS WITH ITS BATTERED SUPERSTRUCTURE ASKEW ON GROUND SEVERAL HUNDRED FEET AWAY. AS MOVEMENT OF SONGEA MUCH MORE COMPLICATED THAN MOVEMENT OF PASSENGER SHIPS, THE BETTING AROUND PORT IS THAT IT MIGHT BE MONTHS, IF NOT YEARS, BEFORE ONE HEARS CHUG OF TANZANIAN MERCHANT MARINE ON LAKE NYASA (MALAWI).
CARTER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ALLIGATIONS, SHIP MOVEMENTS, LAKE NYASA
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975DARES00790
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750092-0638
From: DAR ES SALAAM
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750345/aaaabohs.tel
Line Count: 88
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 BLANTYRE 0318, 75 (NOTA DAR ES SALAAM A-133, 75 (7/19/7NOTA
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 AUG 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 AUG 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <08 DEC 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SHIPS ON LAKE NYASA (MALAWI) -- WHEN WILL THE FLEET ARRIVE?
TAGS: PFOR, EWWT, TZ, MI
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006